Control. The two sides also agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement. The two Special Representatives (National Security Advisor from our side, and senior-most Vice Foreign Minister, Dai Bingguo from the Chinese side) had their first meeting in New Delhi from 23 to 24 October, 2003. They have agreed to meet again on mutually acceptable dates in Beijing.

Removal of ban from over flight to Pakistan

1779. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has lifted the ban on Indian over flights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the date of journey and time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During the technical level talks on the resumption of Civil Aviation links that were held on New Delhi on 1 December, 2003, India and Pakistan agreed to resume simultaneous direct air links and overflights with effect from 1 January, 2004 on a reciprocal basis.

Discussion with Myanmar

1780. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which discussions were held by the Governments of India and Myanmar recently;

(b) the decisions taken as a result of the discussions held; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to implement the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Vice President made an offiicial visit to Myanmar from 2-5 November, 2003. Earlier Foreign

Office consultations were held between the two countries on 23-24th October. During the meetings all bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed by the two sides.

Both sides agreed to cooperate in preventing countering and suppressing the activities of terrorist groups and to ensuring that their common border remains one of peace, stability and tranquility. The two sides shared the view that the United Nations reform process should be expedited. Myanmar informed the Indian side of its willingness to support the aspiration of India to become a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council when the issue comes up. The two sides agreed to work jointly to strengthen regional cooperation, including in ASEAN, the BIMST-EC and the Mekong -Ganga Cooperation, in which both countries are actively involved. Agreements were signed on visa exemption for official and diplomatic passport holders and in the field of educational exchanges. The Government of India also extended a Credit Line of US dollars 25 million to Myanmar, for which a bilateral agreement was signed.

Supply of weapons to Pakistan by North Korea

1781. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has admitted to buying strategic surface to surface missiles from North Korea;

(b) whether Pakistan has also declared that it would match India's build up of arms and weapons system to maintain the balance of power; and

(c) if so, Government's views on this arms race and its implications on our development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Pakistan President Musharraf is reported to have said in a news conference in Seoul on November 7,2003, that Pakistan had purchased conventional short range missiles from North Korea. He further added "we have purchased these missiles from North Korea. We have also had a transfer of technology of these missiles. We now manufacture ourselves these missiles."